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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/07248 (22) International Filing Date: 7 April 1998 (07.04.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/041,909 7 April 1997 (07.04.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TRIANGLE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 4 University Place, 4611 University Drive, Durham, NC 27707 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FURMAN, Phillip, A. [US/US]; 901 Bluestone Road, Durham, NC 27713 (US). MOXHAM, Carey, P. [US/US]; 7 Hickorywood Square, Durham, NC 27713 (US). BARRY, David [US/US]; 1810 Southlakeshore Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 (US). DORROTO-ESODO, Katyna [US/US]; 12408 Tappersfield Court, Raleigh, NC 27613 (US). (74) Agent: KNOWLES, Sherry, M.; King & Spalding, 191 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303-1763 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
(54) Title: USE OF MKC-442 IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ANTIVIRAL AGENTS (57) Abstract Use of MKC-442 in combination or alternation with other antiviral agents for the treatment of patients infected with HIV is disclosed.		

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USE OF MKC-442 IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ANTIVIRAL AGENTS

In 1983, the etiological cause of AIDS was determined to be the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In 1985, it was reported that the synthetic nucleoside 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT) inhibits the replication of human immunodeficiency virus. Since then, a number of other synthetic nucleosides, including 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (DDI), 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (DDC), and 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydrothymidine (D4T), have been proven to be effective against HIV. After cellular phosphorylation to the 5'-triphosphate by cellular kinases, these synthetic nucleosides are incorporated into a growing strand of viral

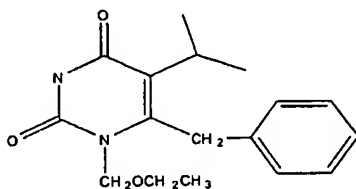
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toxicity. The (-)-enantiomer of the racemate BCH-189, known as 3TC, which is covered by U.S. Patent No. 5,539,116 to Liotta *et al.*, is currently sold for the treatment of HIV in combination with AZT in humans in the U.S.

25 It has also been disclosed that cis-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane ("FTC") has potent HIV activity. Schinazi, *et al.*, "Selective Inhibition of Human Immunodeficiency Viruses by Racemates and Enantiomers of cis-5-Fluoro-1-[2-(Hydroxymethyl)-1,3-Oxathiolane-5-yl]Cytosine" *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, November 1992, pp. 2423-2431. See also U.S. Patent No. 5,210,085; WO 91/11186, and
30 WO 92/14743.

Another compound that exhibits efficacy against HIV both *in vitro* and *in vivo* is 6-benzyl-1-(ethoxymethyl)-5-isopropyluracil, which is also known as MKC-442.

MKC-442



MKC-442 is described, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,461,060.

MKC-442, although a nucleoside analogue, functions as a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor. It is considered an allosteric inhibitor because it appears to exert its activity by binding to an "allosteric position", i.e., one other than the binding site, of the enzyme. Preclinical tests suggest that MKC-442 may possess characteristics that address several of the therapeutic challenges of HIV. When tested in cell culture assay systems against wild-type (drug-sensitive) and several mutant strains of HIV known to be resistant to established non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, MKC-442 retained much of its ability to inhibit HIV replication. In these studies, MKC-442 displayed greater potency than nevirapine against wild-type and mutant strains of HIV. Preclinical studies of MKC-442 in two drug combinations with AZT or with DDI and in three drug combinations with AZT and saquinavir have demonstrated synergistic inhibition of HIV replication.

Studies in animals suggest a favorable safety and pharmacokinetic profile for MKC-442. Animal pharmacokinetic analyses showed good oral bioavailability and excellent penetration into the central nervous system, a significant site of HIV replication that is poorly penetrated by many currently marketed anti-HIV drugs. In rats, for example, the concentration of MKC-442 in the brain was 100% of that seen in the plasma.

A Phase I study evaluated the pharmacokinetics and tolerance of single escalating doses of MKC-442 in HIV-infected volunteers. The compound was generally well tolerated, with only a few participants experiencing minor adverse effects at the higher dose levels. In the groups receiving higher doses, concentrations of the drug in the plasma reached levels much higher than the levels required to suppress 90% of the virus in culture.

Preliminary data from a Phase I/II double-blind, placebo controlled trial designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of repeated multiple oral doses of MKC-442 in HIV-infected patients has now also been evaluated. A total of 49 patients were treated with MKC-442 for up to two months. Doses ranging from 100 mg to 1000 mg twice a day were given to groups of six to eight patients at each dosage level. At the highest doses tested (705 mg and 1000 mg twice a day), the viral load was reduced by an average of 96% in all patients after one week. This reduction was mostly sustained at two weeks whereafter it was followed by a gradual increase in viral load from the nadir toward baseline levels. A single point mutation at position 13 of the reverse transcriptase that may be associated with resistance was found in the virus obtained from some patients. In over 308 patient-weeks of drug exposure, MKC-442 was well tolerated.

It is known that over a period of time, agents such as MKC-442 that are active against HIV induce mutations in the virus which reduce the efficacy of the drug. There is a need to improve the durability of antiviral efficacy produced by antiretroviral drugs, including MKC-442, by decreasing the rate at which such mutations arise. Further, although MKC-442 exhibits a favorable pharmacokinetic and biodistribution profile, there is always a desire to improve these parameters. There is also a need to decrease the metabolism of the drug, which can lead to an increase in the plasma concentration of or exposure to MKC-442.

U.S. Patent No. 5,604,209, issued on February 18, 1997 to Ubasawa et al., and assigned to Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, discloses that certain 6-benzyl-1-ethoxymethyl-5-substituted uracil derivatives, including MKC-442, and certain 2',3'-dideoxyribonucleosides, including 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (DDI), 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT), AZT triphosphate, and 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (DDC), exhibit a synergistic effect against HIV.

Japanese Patent Application No. 9-18384 filed on January 31, 1997, by Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, discloses a method for the treatment of HIV that includes the administration of a 6-benzyl-1-ethoxymethyl-5-substituted uracil derivative, including MKC-442, in combination with two or more nucleoside-type reverse transcriptase inhibitors or their esters, and in particular, those selected from the group consisting of AZT, 2',3'-dideoxy-3'-thiacytidine (3TC), PMEA (9-(2-phosphonylmethoxyethyl) adenine (Gilead); PMPA: (R)-9-(2-phosphonyl-methoxypropyl)adenine); 1592U89 succinate ((1S,4R)-4-[2-amino-6-

cyclopropyl-amino)-9H-purin-9-yl]-2-cyclopentene-1-methanol succinate); 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (DDI); and 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydrothymidine (D4T), and esters thereof.

In light of the strong activity of MKC-442 against HIV, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method and composition that includes MKC-442 for the treatment of patients infected with HIV that exhibits advantageous or improved pharmacokinetic, biodistribution, metabolic, resistance or other parameters over administration of MKC-442 alone.

It is also an object of the invention to improve the efficacy of MKC-442 during short periods of administration and over extended time periods.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a method and composition for the treatment of patients infected with HIV in which MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with a second compound that acts synergistically with MKC-442 against the virus.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a method and composition for the treatment of patients infected with HIV in which MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with a second compound (or at least one other compound) that acts synergistically with MKC-442 against the virus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has been discovered that MKC-442 can be administered in combination with one or more antiviral agents to achieve an advantageous therapeutic effect against HIV. In some cases, the enhanced therapeutic effect is not attainable by administration of either agent alone. In a preferred but not necessary embodiment, the effect of administration of the two agents in combination or alternation is synergistic.

In one preferred embodiment, MKC-442 is administered in combination with a protease inhibitor. In particular embodiments, MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with indinavir (Crixivan); nelfinavir ([3S-[2(2S*,3S*),3-alpha,4-a-beta,8a-beta-]]-N-(1,1-dimethylethyl)decahydro-2-)2-hydroxy-3-[(3-hydroxy-2-methylbenzoyl)amino]-4-(phenylthio)butyl]-3-isoquinolincarboxamide mono-methanesulfonate) (Viracept), saquinavir (Invirase), or 141 W94 (amprenavir; (S)-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl-N-[(1S,2R)-3-

[N-[(4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl]-N-isobutylamino]-1-benzyl-2-hydroxypropyl]carbamate; or efavirenz (S)-6-chloro-4-(cyclopropylethynyl)-1,4-dihydro-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2H-3,1-benzoxazin-2-one.).

In another preferred embodiment, MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with a nucleoside analog, including FTC, 3TC, or abacavir (1592U89) which is
 5 (1S,4R)-4-[2-amino-6-cyclopropyl-amino)-9H-purin-9-yl]-2-cyclopentene-1-methanol succinate.

In another embodiment, MKC-442 is administered in combination with a nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor such as DMP-266 (efavirenz; 1,4-dihydro-2H-3,1-benzoxazin-2-one); delavirdine, (1-[3-(1-methyl-ethyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl-4-
 10 [[5-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]-1H-indol-2-yl]carbonyl]-, monoethanesulfonate); or nelfinavir ([3S-(3R*, 4aR*, 8aR*, 2'S*, 3'S*)]-2-[2'-hydroxy-3'-phenylthiomethyl-4'-aza-5'-oxo-5'-(2"-methyl-3"-hydroxyphenyl)pentyl]-decahydroiso-quinoline-3-N-t-butylcarboxamide methanesulfonic acid salt.

In general, during alternation therapy, an effective dosage of each agent is
 15 administered serially, whereas in combination therapy, an effective dosage of two or more agents are administered together. The dosages will depend on such factors as absorption, biodistribution, metabolism and excretion rates for each drug as well as other factors known to those of skill in the art. It is to be noted that dosage values will also vary with the severity of the condition to be alleviated. It is to be further understood that for any particular subject,
 20 specific dosage regimens and schedules should be adjusted over time according to the individual need and the professional judgment of the person administering or supervising the administration of the compositions. Examples of suitable dosage ranges for protease inhibitors, for example, nelfinavir and indinavir, can be found in the scientific literature and in the Physicians Desk Reference. Many examples of suitable dosage ranges for other
 25 compounds described herein are also found in public literature or can be identified using known procedures. These dosage ranges can be modified as desired to achieve a desired result.

The disclosed combination and alternation regimens are useful in the prevention and treatment of HIV infections and other related conditions such as AIDS-related complex
 30 (ARC), persistent generalized lymphadenopathy (PGL), AIDS-related neurological

conditions, anti-HIV antibody positive and HIV-positive conditions, Kaposi's sarcoma, thrombocytopenia purpura and opportunistic infections. In addition, these compounds or formulations can be used prophylactically to prevent or retard the progression of clinical illness in individuals who are anti-HIV antibody or HIV-antigen positive or who have been exposed to HIV.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 is an isobologram analysis of the combination of MKC-442 and indinavir in cell culture.

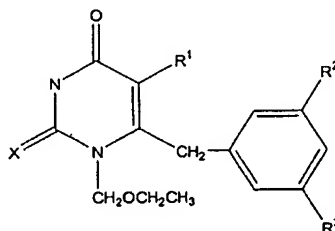
Figure 2 is an isobologram analysis of the combination of MKC-442 and nelfinavir in cell culture.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It has been discovered that MKC-442 can be administered in combination with one or more antiviral agents to achieve an advantageous therapeutic effect to inhibit HIV replication. In most cases, the enhanced therapeutic effect is not attainable by administration of either agent alone. In a preferred but not necessary embodiment, the effect of administration of the two agents in combination or alternation is synergistic.

I. MKC-442 and Related Compounds

In one embodiment, an effective HIV-treatment amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein X is oxygen or sulfur, R¹ is ethyl or isopropyl, R² and R³ are independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl or halogen (chlorine, bromine, iodine, or fluorine) is administered to a patient in need thereof in combination with a protease inhibitor or with another anti-HIV compound as described herein. In a preferred embodiment, the compound is MKC-442.

5 Any of the compounds described herein for combination or alternation therapy can be administered as any derivative that upon administration to the recipient, is capable of providing directly or indirectly, the parent compound, or that exhibits activity itself. Nonlimiting examples are the pharmaceutically acceptable salts (alternatively referred to as "physiologically acceptable salts"), and a compound which has been alkylated or acylated at
10 an appropriate position. The modifications can affect the biological activity of the compound, in some cases increasing the activity over the parent compound. This can easily be assessed by preparing the derivative and testing its antiviral activity according to known methods.

 As used herein, the term pharmaceutically acceptable salts refers to salts that
15 retain the desired biological activity of the herein-identified compounds and exhibit minimal undesired toxicological effects. Non-limiting examples of such salts are (a) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids (for example, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, and the like), and salts formed with organic acids such as amino acid, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid,
20 benzoic acid, tannic acid, palmoic acid, alginic acid, polyglutamic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acid, and polygalacturonic acid; (b) base addition salts formed with metal cations such as zinc, calcium, bismuth, barium, magnesium, aluminum, copper, cobalt, nickel, cadmium, sodium, potassium, and the like, or with a cation formed from ammonia, N,N-dibenzylethylene-diamine, D-glucosamine, tetraethylammonium, or
25 ethylenediamine; or (c) combinations of (a) and (b); e.g., a zinc tannate salt or the like.

II. Combination or Alternation Therapy

It has been recognized that drug-resistant variants of HIV can emerge after prolonged treatment with an antiviral agent. Drug resistance most typically occurs by mutation of a gene that encodes for an enzyme used in the viral life cycle, and most typically in the case of HIV, in either the reverse transcriptase or protease genes. It has been demonstrated that the efficacy of a drug against HIV infection can be prolonged, augmented, or restored by administering the compound in combination or alternation with a second, and perhaps third, antiviral compound that induces a different mutation(s) from that selected for by the principle drug. Alternatively, the pharmacokinetics, biodistribution, or other parameter of the drug can be altered by such combination or alternation therapy. In general, combination therapy is typically preferred over alternation therapy because it induces multiple simultaneous stresses on the virus.

The second antiviral agent for the treatment of HIV, in one embodiment, can be a protease inhibitor, or a reverse transcriptase inhibitor (a "RTI"), which can be either a synthetic nucleoside (a "NRTI") or a non-nucleoside compound (a "NNRTI"). In other embodiments, the second (or third) compound can be a pyrophosphate analog, or a fusion binding inhibitor. A list compiling resistance data collected *in vitro* and *in vivo* for a number of antiviral compounds is found in Schinazi et al., mutations in retroviral genes associated with drug resistance, *International Antiviral News*, Volume 1 (4), International Medical Press 1996.

In preferred embodiments, MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with FTC (2',3'-dideoxy-3'-thia-5-fluorocytidine); 141W94 (amprenavir, GlaxoWellcome, Inc.); Viramune (nevirapine), Rescriptor (delavirdine); or DMP-266 (efavirenz). In another preferred embodiment, MKC-442 is administered in combination or alternation with abacavir (1592U89), which is (1S,4R)-4-[2-amino-6-cyclopropyl-amino)-9H-purin-9-yl]-2-cyclopentene-1-methanol succinate.

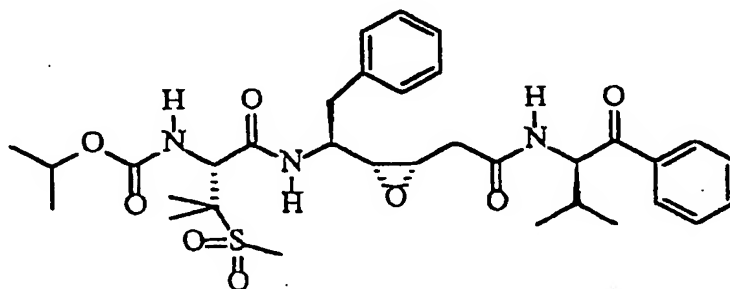
Other examples of antiviral agents that can be used in combination or alternation with the compounds disclosed herein for HIV therapy include 3TC; foscarnet; carbovir, acyclovir, interferon, stavudine, CS-92 (3'-azido-2',3'-dideoxy-5-methyl-cytidine), and b-D-

dioxolane nucleosides such as b-D-dioxolanylguanine (DXG), b-D-dioxolanyl-2,6-diaminopurine (DAPD), and b-D-dioxolanyl-6-chloropurine (ACP).

Preferred protease inhibitors include indinavir ({1(1,S;2R),5(S)}-2,3,5-trideoxy-N-(2,3-dihydro-2-hydroxy-1H-inden-1-yl)-5-[2-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)amino]carbonyl]-4-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-(phenylmethyl)-D-erythro-pentoamide sulfate; Merck),
 5 nelfinavir (Agouron), ritonavir (Abbot), saquinavir (Roche) and DMP-450 {[4R-4(r-a,5-a,6-b,7-6)]-hexahydro-5,6-bis(hydroxy)-1,3-bis(3-amino)phenyl)methyl]-4,7-bis(phenylmethyl)-2H-1,3-diazepin-2-one}-bismesylate (Triangle Pharmaceuticals, Inc.).

Nonlimiting examples of other compounds that can be administered in combination or alternation with MKC-442 to augment the properties of the drug on
 10 administration include abacavir: (1S,4R)-4-[2-amino-6-cyclopropyl-amino)-9H-purin-9-yl]-2-cyclopentene-1-methanol succinate (1592U89, a carbovir analog; Glaxo Wellcome); AzddU: 3'-azido-2',3'-dideoxyuridine; zidovudine: AZT, 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (Glaxo Wellcome); BILA 1906: N-{1S-[[[3-[2S-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)amino]carbonyl]-4R]-3-pyridinylmethyl]thio]-1-piperidinyl]-2R-hydroxy-1S-(phenylmethyl)propyl]amino]carbonyl]-
 15 2-methylpropyl]-2-quinolinecarboxamide (Bio Mega/Boehringer-Ingelheim); BILA 2185: N-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1-[2S-[[2-2,6-dimethylphenoxy)-1-oxoethyl]amino]-2R-hydroxy-4-phenylbutyl]4R-pyridinylthio)-2-piperidinecarboxamide (Bio Mega/Boehringer-Ingelheim); BM+51.0836: triazoloisoindolinone derivative; BMS 186,318: aminodiol derivative HIV-1
 20 protease inhibitor (Bristol-Myers-Squibb); d4API: 9-[2,5-dihydro-5-(phosphonomethoxy)-2-furanyl]adenine (Gilead); stavudine: d4T, 2',3'-didehydro-3'-deoxythymidine (Bristol-Myers-Squibb); HBY097: S-4-isopropoxycarbonyl-6-methoxy-3-(methylthio-methyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-thione; HEPT: 1-[(2-hydroxyethoxy)methyl]6-(phenylthio)thymine; KNI-272: (2S,3S)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-4-phenylbutyric acid-containing tripeptide; L-697,593; 5-ethyl-6-methyl-3-(2-phthalimido-ethyl)pyridin-2(1H)-one; L-
 25 735,524: hydroxy-aminopentane amide HIV-1 protease inhibitor (Merck); L-697,661: 3-{-[4,7-dichloro-1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)methyl]amino}-5-ethyl-6-methylpyridin-2(1H)-one; L-FDDC: (-)-b-L-5-fluoro-2',3'-dideoxycytidine; L-FDOC: (-)-b-L-5-fluoro-dioxolane cytosine; 6-benzyl-1-ethoxymethyl-5-isopropyluracil (I-EBU; Triangle/Mitsubishi); nevirapine: 11-cyclopropyl-5,11-dihydro-4-methyl-6H-dipyridol[3,2-b:2',3'-e]diazepin-6-one (Boehringer-
 30 Ingelheim); PFA: phosphonoformate (foscarnet; Astra); PMEA: 9-(2-

phosphonylmethoxyethyl) adenine (Gilead); PMPA: (R)-9-(2-phosphonyl-methoxypropyl)adenine (Gilead); Ro 31-8959: hydroxyethylamine derivative HIV-1 protease inhibitor (Roche); RPI-3121: peptidyl protease inhibitor, 1-[(3s)-3-(n-alpha-benzyloxycarbonyl)-1-asparginyl)-amino-2-hydroxy-4-phenylbutyryl]-n-tert-butyl-1-proline amide; 2720: 6-chloro-3,3-dimethyl-4-(isopropenyloxycarbonyl)-3,4-dihydro-quinoxalin-2(1H)thione; SC-52151: hydroxyethylurea isostere protease inhibitor (Searle); SC-55389A: hydroxyethyl-urea isostere protease inhibitor (Searle); TIBO R82150: (+)-(5S)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-5-methyl-6-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)imidazo[4,5,1-jk][1,4]-benzodiazepin-2(1H)-thione (Janssen); TIBO 82913: (+)-(5S)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-9-chloro-5-methyl-6-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)imidazo[4,5,1jk]-[1,4]benzodiazepin-2(1H)-thione (Janssen); TSAO-m3T: [2',5'-bis-O-(tert-butyl)dimethylsilyl]-3'-spiro-5'-(4'-amino-1',2'-oxathiole-2',2'-dioxide)]-b-D-pentofuranosyl-N3-methylthymine; U90152: 1-[3-[(1-methylethyl)-amino]2-pyridinyl]-4-[[5-[(methylsulphonyl)-amino]-1H-indol-2yl]carbonyl]piperazine; UC: thiocarboxanilide derivatives (Uniroyal); UC-781 = N-[4-chloro-3-(3-methyl-2-butenyloxy)phenyl]-2-methyl-3-furancarbothioamide; UC-82 = N-[4-chloro-3-(3-methyl-2-butenyloxy)phenyl]-2-methyl-3-thiophenecarbothioamide; VB 11,328: hydroxyethylsulphonamide protease inhibitor (Vertex); VX-478: amprenavir, 141 W94, hydroxyethylsulphonamide protease inhibitor (Vertex/Glaxo Wellcome); XM 323: cyclic urea protease inhibitor (Dupont Merck), famciclovir, gancyclovir, and penciclovir. In another embodiment, MKC-442 is administered in combination with a protease inhibitor (LG 1350) of the structure:



Prodrug Formulations

Any of the nucleosides or other compounds which are described herein for use in combination or alternation therapy with MKC-442 or its related compounds can be administered as an acylated prodrug or a nucleotide prodrug, as described in detail below.

5 The term acyl refers to a carboxylic acid ester in which the non-carbonyl moiety of the ester group is selected from straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl or lower alkyl, alkoxyalkyl including methoxymethyl, aralkyl including benzyl, aryloxyalkyl such as phenoxymethyl, aryl including phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, C₁ to C₄ alkyl or C₁ to C₄ alkoxy, sulfonate esters such as alkyl or aralkyl sulphonyl including
10 methanesulfonyl, the mono, di or triphosphate ester, trityl or monomethoxytrityl, substituted benzyl, trialkylsilyl (e.g. dimethyl-t-butyilsilyl).

Any of the nucleosides described herein or other compounds that contain a hydroxyl or amine function can be administered as a nucleotide prodrug to increase the activity, bioavailability, stability or otherwise alter the properties of the nucleoside. A
15 number of nucleotide prodrug ligands are known. In general, alkylation, acylation or other lipophilic modification of the hydroxyl group of the compound or of the mono, di or triphosphate of the nucleoside will increase the stability of the nucleotide. Examples of substituent groups that can replace one or more hydrogens on the phosphate moiety or hydroxyl are alkyl, aryl, steroids, carbohydrates, including sugars, 1,2-diacylglycerol and
20 alcohols. Many are described in R. Jones and N. Bischofberger, *Antiviral Research*, 27 (1995) 1-17. Any of these can be used in combination with the disclosed nucleosides or other compounds to achieve a desired effect.

The active nucleoside or other hydroxyl containing compound can also be provided as an ether lipid (and particularly a 5'-ether lipid for a nucleoside), as disclosed in
25 the following references, which are incorporated by reference herein: Kucera, L.S., N. Iyer, E. Leake, A. Raben, Modest E.K., D.L.W., and C. Piantadosi. 1990. "Novel membrane-interactive ether lipid analogs that inhibit infectious HIV-1 production and induce defective virus formation." *AIDS Res. Hum. Retro Viruses*. 6:491-501; Piantadosi, C., J. Marasco C.J., S.L. Morris-Natschke, K.L. Meyer, F. Gumus, J.R. Surles, K.S. Ishaq, L.S.
30 Kucera, N. Iyer, C.A. Wallen, S. Piantadosi, and E.J. Modest. 1991. "Synthesis and

evaluation of novel ether lipid nucleoside conjugates for anti-HIV activity." *J. Med. Chem.* 34:1408-1414; Hosteller, K.Y., D.D. Richman, D.A. Carson, L.M. Stuhmiller, G.M. T. van Wijk, and H. van den Bosch. 1992. "Greatly enhanced inhibition of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 replication in CEM and HT4-6C cells by 3'-deoxythymidine diphosphate dimyristoylglycerol, a lipid prodrug of 3'-deoxythymidine." *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* 36:2025-2029; Hostetler, K.Y., L.M. Stuhmiller, H.B. Lenting, H. van den Bosch, and D.D. Richman, 1990. "Synthesis and antiretroviral activity of phospholipid analogs of azidothymidine and other antiviral nucleosides." *J. Biol. Chem.* 265:61127.

Nonlimiting examples of U.S. patents that disclose suitable lipophilic substituents that can be covalently incorporated into the nucleoside or other hydroxyl or amine containing compound, preferably at the 5'-OH position of the nucleoside or lipophilic preparations, include U.S. Patent Nos. 5,149,794 (Sep. 22, 1992, Yatvin et al.); 5,194,654 (Mar. 16, 1993, Hostetler et al., 5,223,263 (June 29, 1993, Hostetler et al.); 5,256,641 (Oct. 26, 1993, Yatvin et al.); 5,411,947 (May 2, 1995, Hostetler et al.); 5,463,092 (Oct. 31, 1995, Hostetler et al.); 5,543,389 (Aug. 6, 1996, Yatvin et al.); 5,543,390 (Aug. 6, 1996, Yatvin et al.); 5,543,391 (Aug. 6, 1996, Yatvin et al.); and 5,554,728 (Sep. 10, 1996; Basava et al.), all of which are incorporated herein by reference. Foreign patent applications that disclose lipophilic substituents that can be attached to the nucleosides of the present invention, or lipophilic preparations, include WO 89/02733, WO 90/00555, WO 91/16920, WO 91/18914, WO 93/00910, WO 94/26273, WO 96/15132, EP 0 350 287, EP 93917054.4, and WO 91/19721.

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Bull. 36, 209-217. An example of a useful phosphate prodrug group is the S-acyl-2-thioethyl group, also referred to as "SATE".

These compounds can be tested for synergistic activity with MKC-442 against HIV according to a number of assays, including that described below.

5 **Example 1 Evaluation of Inhibition of HIV Infection Using Combined Antiviral Agents**

10 The inhibitory effects of combined antiviral agents were evaluated using the human T cell line, MT2. Infection of this cell line with HIV results in cell death. Inhibition of the HIV induced cytopathic effect by the combined agents is measured in a MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide) based assay. The mitochondrial dehydrogenases of viable cells will cleave the tetrazolium ring of MTT, yielding purple formazan crystals which are soluble in acidified isopropanol. The resulting purple solution is measured spectrophotometrically. The amount of purple dye formed is directly related to the number of viable cells. Therefore, a decrease in color in this assay indicates cell death due to viral cytopathic effects (CPE). This assay has been employed in the assessment of a variety of antiretroviral compounds (Pauwels, R. et al, 1988, *J. Virol. Methods*, 20: 309-321.) and is readily adaptable to any system with a lytic virus.

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Preparation of drug plates.

25 The assays are performed in a 96 well microtiter plate. Each compound to be tested is made up at 4 times the final concentration to allow for dilution by cells and other test compounds. Compounds are prepared in complete RPMI media (RPMI 1640 plus 10% fetal bovine serum plus 20 mg/mL gentamicin). Two drugs are tested simultaneously on each plate using a checkerboard design. Serial dilutions of the first drug are added to the vertical wells (50 mL/well) of the plate (columns 2 – 11). Serial dilutions of the second drug (50 mL/well) are then added to the plate across horizontal rows (rows A – G). Column #2 and row H contain dilutions of only one compound. EC₅₀ values obtained from these wells are a measure of the antiviral activity of each compound alone. Column #1 contains virus control,

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infected cells grown in the absence of compound, and Column 12 contains cell control, mock infected cells.

Preparation of cells.

MT2 cells are infected with the LAI strain of HIV at a multiplicity of infection of 0.01 in complete RPMI containing 2 mg/mL polybrene for 2 hours at 37°C. Following infection, cells diluted to 2.5×10^5 cells/mL in complete RPMI media. 100 mL of the cell suspension are seeded onto 96 well plates, 2.5×10^4 cells/well, containing test compounds as described above. The final volume in each well is 200 mL. Plates are sealed and incubated at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for 5 days.

Developing the assay.

Following the 5 day incubation, 80 mL of cell free supernatant is removed from each well and 10 mL of a 5 mg/mL solution of MTT is added. The plates are returned to the incubator for 2 hours followed by the addition of 100 mL of acidified isopropanol (10% Triton X-100 plus 0.1N HCl in anhydrous isopropanol) to each well. Formazan crystals are dissolved by repeated pipetting in the wells. Plates are read at 570 nm in a Biotek plate reader.

Calculation of Data.

A dose response curve for each individual compound is generated using the absorption values of the cell controls as 100% protection and no drug virus infected cells as 0% protection. From this dose response curve a EC₅₀ value is calculated and is defined as the concentration of drug that inhibits 50% of viral induced CPE. The effects of the combined compounds were obtained using the isobologram technique (Elion, G.B. et al, 1954, J. Biol. Chem., 208: 477-488). The data plotted were obtained by dividing the EC₅₀ of compound #1 in the presence of a fixed concentration of compound #2 by the EC₅₀ of compound #1 alone. In a similar fashion data can be obtained by dividing the EC₅₀ of compound #2 in the presence of a fixed concentration of compound #1 by the EC₅₀ of compound #2 alone. The EC₅₀ ratios are plotted against the ratio of compound at each combination. If the curve

generated by these points falls on the theoretic diagonal line, the combination is additive. If the curve is above the theoretical line, the combination is antagonistic. And, if the curve lies below the theoretical line, then the combination is synergistic. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate isobologram analysis of the combination of MKC-442 with indinavir and with nelfinavir.

5 Even though a combination exhibits additive and not synergistic effects according to this assay, the combination can still provide an effect that is different from the separate administration of the two agents. For example, the biodistribution, pharmacokinetics, or metabolism of one can be affected by the other. Further, MKC-442 is advantageously delivered in combination or alternation with another antiviral agent that exhibits a different mutation profile than MKC-442.

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such as the ones described herein.

25 A preferred dose of the compound for all the above-mentioned conditions will be in the range from about 1 to 50 mg/kg, preferably 1 to 20 mg/kg, of body weight per day, more generally 0.1 to about 100 mg per kilogram body weight of the recipient per day. The effective dosage range of the pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives can be calculated based on the weight of the parent nucleoside to be delivered. If the derivative exhibits activity in

itself, the effective dosage can be estimated as above using the weight of the derivative, or by other means known to those skilled in the art.

The compounds are conveniently administered in unit any suitable dosage form, including but not limited to one containing 7 to 3000 mg, preferably 70 to 1400 mg of active ingredient per unit dosage form. An oral dosage of 50 to 1000 mg is usually convenient.

5 Ideally, the active ingredient should be administered to achieve peak plasma concentrations of the active compound of from about 0.2 to 70 mM, preferably about 1.0 to 10 mM. This may be achieved, for example, by the intravenous injection of a 0.1 to % solution of the active ingredient, optionally in saline, or administered as a bolus of the active ingredient.

10 The concentration of active compound in the drug composition will depend on absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion rates of the drug as well as other factors known to those of skill in the art. It is to be noted that dosage values will also vary with the severity of the condition to be alleviated. It is to be further understood that for any particular subject, specific dosage regimens should be adjusted over time according to the individual
15 need and the professional judgment of the person administering or supervising the administration of the compositions, and that the concentration ranges set forth herein are exemplary only and are not intended to limit the scope or practice of the claimed composition. The active ingredient may be administered at once, or may be divided into a number of smaller doses to be administered at varying intervals of time.

20 A preferred mode of administration of the active compound is oral. Oral compositions will generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier. They may be enclosed in gelatin capsules or compressed into tablets. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, troches, or capsules. Pharmaceutically compatible bind agents, and/or adjuvant
25 materials can be included as part of the composition.

30 The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like can contain any of the following ingredients, or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth or gelatin; an excipient such as starch or lactose, a disintegrating agent such as alginic acid, Primogel, or corn starch; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate or Sterotes; a glidant such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; or a

flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or orange flavoring. When the dosage unit form is a capsule, it can contain, in addition to material of the above type, a liquid carrier such as a fatty oil. In addition, dosage unit forms can contain various other materials which modify the physical form of the dosage unit, for example, coatings of sugar, shellac, or other enteric agents.

5 The compounds can be administered as a component of an elixir, suspension, syrup, wafer, chewing gum or the like. A syrup may contain, in addition to the active compounds, sucrose as a sweetening agent and certain preservatives, dyes and colorings and flavors.

10 The compounds or their pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or salts thereof can also be mixed with other active materials that do not impair the desired action, or with materials that supplement the desired action, such as antibiotics, antifungals, antiinflammatories, protease inhibitors, or other nucleoside or non-nucleoside antiviral agents, as discussed in more detail above. Solutions or suspensions used for parental, intradermal, subcutaneous, or topical application can include the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, polyethylene glycols, 15 glycerine, propylene glycol or other synthetic solvents; antibacterial agents such as benzyl alcohol or methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. The parental preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes or multiple dose 20 vials made of glass or plastic.

 If administered intravenously, preferred carriers are physiological saline or phosphate buffered saline (PBS).

25 In a preferred embodiment, the active compounds are prepared with carriers that will protect the compound against rapid elimination from the body, such as a controlled release formulation, including implants and microencapsulated delivery systems. Biodegradable, biocompatible polymers can be used, such as ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid, collagen, polyorthoesters, and polylactic acid. Methods for preparation of such formulations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The materials can also be obtained commercially from Alza Corporation.

Liposomal suspensions (including liposomes targeted to infected cells with monoclonal antibodies to viral antigens) are also preferred as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. these may be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art, for example, as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,522,811 (which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). For example, liposome formulations may be prepared by dissolving appropriate lipid(s) (such as stearyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine, stearyl phosphatidyl choline, arachadoyl phosphatidyl choline, and cholesterol) in an inorganic solvent that is then evaporated, leaving behind a thin film of dried lipid on the surface of the container. An aqueous solution of the active compound or its monophosphate, diphosphate, and/or triphosphate derivatives is then introduced into the container. The container is then swirled by hand to free lipid material from the sides of the container and to disperse lipid aggregates, thereby forming the liposomal suspension.

This invention has been described with reference to its preferred embodiments. Variations and modifications of the invention, will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the foregoing detailed description of the invention. It is intended that all of these variations and modifications be included within the scope of this invention.

We Claim.

1. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a protease inhibitor, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in the treatment of a patient infected with HIV.

5 2. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of: indinavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir, amprenavir, and DMP-450 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the treatment of a patient infected with HIV.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is indinavir.

4. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is nelfinavir.

10 5. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is saquinavir.

6. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is amprenavir.

7. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is DMP-450.

8. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of abacavir, FTC, or 3TC or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the treatment of a patient infected with HIV.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the compound is abacavir.

10. The use of claim 8, wherein the compound is FTC.

11. The use of claim 8, wherein the compound is 3TC.

20 12. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of DMP-266, delavirdine, and nevirapine or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the treatment of a patient infected with HIV.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is DMP-266.

25 14. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is delavirdine.

15. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is nevirapine.

16. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a patient infected with HIV, comprising an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination with a protease inhibitor, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a patient infected with HIV, comprising an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of: indinavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir, amprenavir, and DMP-450 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

5 18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the compound is indinavir.

19. The composition of claim 17, wherein the compound is nelfinavir.

20. The composition of claim 17, wherein the compound is saquinavir.

21. The composition of claim 17, wherein the compound is amprenavir.

22. The composition of claim 17, wherein the compound is DMP-450.

10 23. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a patient infected with HIV, comprising an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of abacavir, FTC, or 3TC or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

24. The composition of claim 8, wherein the compound is abacavir.

15 25. The composition of claim 8, wherein the compound is FTC.

26. The composition of claim 8, wherein the compound is 3TC.

27. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a patient infected with HIV, comprising an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination with a compound selected from the group consisting of DMP-266, delavirdine, and nevirapine or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20 28. The composition of claim 27, wherein the compound is DMP-266.

29. The composition of claim 27, wherein the compound is delavirdine.

30. The composition of claim 27, wherein the compound is nevirapine.

31. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a protease inhibitor, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in the preparation of a medicament for medical therapy.

32. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of: indinavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir, amprenavir, and DMP-450 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the preparation of a medicament for medical therapy.

33. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is indinavir.
34. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is nelfinavir.
35. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is saquinavir.
36. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is amprenavir.
37. The use of claim 2, wherein the compound is DMP-450.
- 5 38. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of abacavir, FTC, or 3TC or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the preparation of a medicament for medical therapy.
39. The use of claim 8, wherein the compound is abacavir.
- 10 40. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is FTC.
41. The use of claim 8, wherein the compound is 3TC.
42. Use of an effective treatment amount of MKC-442 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in combination or alternation with a compound selected from the group consisting of DMP-266, delavirdine, and nevirapine or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in the preparation of a medicament for medical therapy.
- 15 43. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is DMP-266.
44. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is delavirdine.
45. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is nevirapine.

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